

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

- 1 1. A personal computer system initially loaded with software including selected and
2 non-selected software in unusable form, with the selected software later converted
3 and loaded thereon in usable form, the computer including a processor, a storage
4 device coupled to the processor for storing programs therein, with selected programs
5 stored in the storage device in usable form after conversion from unusable form, said
6 selected programs having been selected based-on the user's position and
7 requirements, said selected programs having been converted by the processor from
8 unusable form and stored in usable form, with non-selected programs not being
9 converted into usable form, said personal computer creating a list of the selected
10 software for paying royalties on only the selected software.

- 1 2. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 1 wherein the
2 personal computer processor includes a software module which erases the
3 non-selected software to remove it from the personal computer.

- 1 3. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 1 wherein the
2 personal computer includes a software module for converting the selected software
3 from an unusable form into an usable form in response to the selection and the list
4 of selected software upon which a royalty is paid is the software which is converted
5 from unusable to usable form.

- 1 4. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 1 wherein the
2 personal computer includes a software module for converting the selected software
3 from an encrypted form into an unencrypted form and the list of selected software
4 upon which a royalty is paid includes the software which is converted from encrypted
5 to unencrypted form.

1 5. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 4 wherein the
2 personal computer includes a software module for converting the selected software
3 from a compressed form to an uncompressed form.

1 6. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 1 wherein the
2 computer includes a software module for selection of the selected software,
3 including means to input the user's function and to select software for addition or
4 deletion based on the software associated with the user's function.

1 7. A method of installing a variable selection of software programs on a personal
2 computer, the steps of the method comprising:

3 loading onto the personal computer storage a plurality of software programs in
4 unusable form, including some software programs needed for that computer and
5 other software programs which are not needed for that computer;

6 selecting the software programs which are needed for that personal computer;

7 converting from unusable form into usable form the software programs which have
8 been selected;

9 storing the converted software programs in usable form into the storage of the
10 personal computer; and

11 paying royalties only on the programs which have been selected, converted and
12 stored in the storage in usable form.

1 8. A method of installing a variable selection of software programs on a computer
2 including the steps of Claim 7 wherein the method further includes the step of
3 erasing the software programs which were not selected.

1 9. A method of installing selected software programs on a personal computer
2 including the steps of Claim 7 wherein the step of selecting the software for a
3 particular personal computer includes the step of identifying the user of that personal
4 computer.

1 10. A method of installing software programs including the steps of Claim 7 wherein
2 the step of selecting the software programs for a particular personal computer
3 includes the step of identifying the job function of the user and selecting software
4 which is appropriate for the job function.

1 11. A method of installing software programs including the steps of Claim 10
2 wherein a listing of software for the user and his job function is displayed and an
3 input determines whether software should be added or deleted as selected software
4 programs to be included or excluded as usable software on the particular personal
5 computer.

1 12. A personal computer system loaded with usable software comprising:
2 a processor, a storage device and several programs loaded on the storage device
3 in such a way as to make the programs unusable;
4 a module associated with the processor for selecting certain of the programs loaded
5 on the personal computer;

6 a module associated with the processor and responsive to the selecting of certain
7 programs to make the selected programs active and usable; and

8 a module associated with the processor to make the programs which were not
9 selected permanently unusable.

1 13. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 12 wherein the
2 module for making unusable the programs which were not selected includes a
3 module for erasing from the storage device the programs not selected.

1 14. A personal computer system of the type described in Claim 12 wherein the
2 module for selecting the programs which are selected includes a module for
3 identifying the function of the user, and, in response to that function, for listing the
4 programs which are appropriate for that function.

1 15. A personal computer of the type described in Claim 12 wherein the module for
2 selecting the programs which are selected includes a user input which can add or
3 delete programs from a listing of programs which are appropriate for that user,
4 whereby a customized set of programs are created for the user and royalties on the
5 customized listing of programs is created.

1 16. A method of preparing different computers with different software programs, the
2 steps of the method comprising:

3 loading each computer with the superset of programs, each of the programs being
4 in unusable form;

1 selecting the subset of programs which are appropriate for the given computer,
2 based on the user and his job function;

3 converting the selected programs into usable form and storing them on the hardfile
4 of the personal computer; and

5 paying royalties only on the selected programs which have been converted and
6 stored.

1 17. A method of preparing personal computers including the steps set forth in
2 Claim 16 wherein the method further includes the step of erasing the programs
3 which have not been selected.

1 18. A method of preparing personal computers the type described in Claim 16
2 wherein the step of selecting the subset of programs includes a user input which
3 serves to add to or delete from the list of programs based on user preferences.

1 19. A method of loading software onto personal computers including the steps of
2 Claim 16 wherein the steps of the method include generating a list of software
3 converted for each personal computer so that the appropriate royalties can be paid.

1 20. A method of loading software onto personal computers including the steps of
2 Claim 19 wherein the step of generating the list of software further includes the step
3 of transmitting that list of software to a host computer which assembles a list of
4 software and royalties for a plurality of personal computers so that a single royalty
5 can be paid for a plurality of personal computers.

1 21. A method of loading software onto personal computers including the steps of
2 Claim 20 wherein the step of generating the list of software further includes
3 preparing a list of the software for each computer along with a list of the user and the
4 functional organization for each personal computer.

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